

Message Text

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S/S-WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 269637

EXDIS TOPOL 20

FOLLOWING REPEAT KUWAIT 5282 -ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI
AMMAN BAGHDAD BY POUCH BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS DOHA BY POUCH
JIDDA LONDON MANAMA MUSCAT TEHRAN DATED 9 DEC 74

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5282

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PINT KU IZ UK

SUBJECT: KUWAITI-IRAQI TENSIONS

REF: LONDON 15990

1. THREE DAYS AFTER SEEING ME (KUWAIT 5227 NOTAL) FONMINISTER
SABAH AL-AHMAD TOLD BRIT AMB LAMB THAT IRAQI AMBITIONS
REGARDING KUWAIT WERE LIKE CANCER, IMPLACABLE AND SPREADING.
FONMIN CONVEYED SENSE OF FRUSTATION IN FACE INTENTIONS OF
IRAQ AS HE SEES THEM NOT ONLY TO HOLD ON TO SMALL STRIP
OF KUWAITI COASTLINE ALREADY TAKEN SOUTH OF UMM QASR BUT TO
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ACQUIRE WARBA ISLAND AND PART OR ALL OB BUBYAN ISLAND. (WE HAVE

BEEN TOLD IRAQ IN EXCHANGE MAY TRY TO BUY OFF KUWAIT WITH
COMPENSATING PEICE OF LAND IN AREA NORTH OF SAFWAN).

2. IN RECENT TALK WITH AMBASSADOR HELMS HERE IN KUWAIT, FONMIN
ALSO CONVEYED DEEP SENSE OF CONCERN OVER IRAQI INTENTIONS AND HE
SEEMED PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT LEADERSHIP IN IRAQ AFTER
DEMISE OF PRES BAKR.

3. COMMENT: HOWEVER FCO OR OTHERS MAY SIZE UP THE REAL DANGER
FROM IRAQ, THE KUWAITIS ARE INCREASINGLY WORRIED. THEY SEE IRAQIS
AS DETERMINED TO ACQUIRE SOME POSITION ON WESTERN SIDE OF GULF
OPPOSITE IRAN ALTHOUGH STEADILY INCREASING PRESSURE AND
WAR OF NERVES. IN MEANTIME, WITH IRAQI AND KUWAITI FORCES MILLING
ABOUT IN CLOSE PROXIMITY ALONG NORTHERN BORDER, OCCASIONAL
"DUST-UPS" BETWEEN THEM CLEARLY CANNOT BE RULED OUT.
STOLTZFUS
UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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